

Curriculum Vitae

Tony Perman, Ph.D.

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Professional Experience

- 2012-Present Assistant Professor, Department of Music, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
- 2010-2012 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Music, Pomona College, Claremont, CA.
- 2008-2010 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Music, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME.
- 2008 Visiting Instructor, School of Music, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
- 2000-2002 University of Illinois Mbira Ensemble Instructor, School of Music, University of
2006-2007 Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
- 2006 University of Illinois Karimba Ensemble Instructor, School of Music, University of
Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Education

- 2008 **Ph.D. Musicology:** School of Music, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois. Dissertation Title: *History, Ethics, and Emotion in Ndau Performance in Zimbabwe: Local Theoretical Knowledge and Ethnomusicological Perspectives.*
- 1997 **M.Mus. Ethnomusicology:** School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, London, England. Thesis Title: *Mbira Voices: Vocal Improvisation in Zimbabwean Mbira Music.*
- 1996 **B.A. Music:** Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio.

Research Interests

Ethnomusicology; Semiotics; Emotion; Religious Experience; Popular Music; Zimbabwe; Africa; Post-colonial identities; Transnationalism; Philosophy and Aesthetics

Publications

Monographs in Progress

Music and the Experience of Meaning in Ndau Spiritual Life (Book Manuscript under review at The University of Chicago Press)

Peircean Theory and Problems in the Anthropology of Music (Co-authored Book Manuscript in Progress)

Articles and Book Chapters

- Forthcoming "Brevity, Ambiguity, and Expressivity in *Mbira Dzavandau* Performance." In *Proceedings of the "Symposium III.4: Mbira Music | Musics. Structures and Processes" of the 15th International Conference of the Gesellschaft für Musikforschung, "Music | Musics. Structures and Processes", Göttingen, 4 - 8 September 2012*, ed. Klaus-Peter Brenner. Göttingen Studies in Musicology / Göttinger Studien zur Musikwissenschaft. Hildesheim: Olms. (38 pp.). (Currently in press). Anticipated 2018 Publication.
- 2017 "Muchongoyo and Mugabeism in Zimbabwe." *African Studies Review* 60(1): 145-170.
- 2015 "A Tale of Two Mbiras." *African Music* 10(1): 102-126.
- 2012 "Sungura in Zimbabwe and the Limits of Cosmopolitanism." *Ethnomusicology Forum* 21(3): 374-401.
- 2011 "Awakening Spirits: The Ontology of Spirit, Self, and Society in Nda Spirit Possession Practices in Zimbabwe." *The Journal of Religion in Africa* 41(1): 59-92.
- 2011 "The Ethics of Nda Performance: Questioning Ethnomusicology's Aesthetics." *The Journal of Musicological Research* 30(3): 227-252.
- 2010 "Dancing in Opposition: *Muchongoyo*, Emotion, and the Politics of Performance in Southeastern Zimbabwe." *Ethnomusicology* 54(3): 425-451.
- 2007 "Building Bridges: The Creative Processes of Chartwell Dutiro." in *Zimbabwean Mbira Music on an International Stage: Chartwell Dutiro's Life in Music*. Chartwell Dutiro and Keith Howard, eds. London: Ashgate Publishing Ltd. 27-40.

Review Essays

- 2013 "Competing Paradigms in the Ethnomusicology of Trance: Review Essay on Judith Becker, *Deep Listeners*; Stephen M. Friedson, *Remains of Ritual*; and Richard C. Jankowsky, *Stambeli*." *Ethnomusicology* 57(2): 330-338

Book Reviews

- Forthcoming "Review of Tsitsi Ella Jaji, *Africa in Stereo: Modernism, Music, and Pan-African Solidarity*." *International Journal of African Historical Studies*. Anticipated 2018 Publication.
- Forthcoming "Review of Jennifer Kyker, Oliver Mtukudzi: *Living Tuku Music in Zimbabwe*." *The World of Music (New Series)*. Anticipated 2018 Publication.
- 2012 "Review of Meki Nzewi, et al., *Musical Sense and Meaning: An Indigenous African Perspective*." *Journal of the Musical Arts in Africa* 8, 121-124.
- 2009 "Review of Elizabeth MacGonagle, *Crafting Identity in Zimbabwe and Mozambique*." *African Studies Review* 52(1).
- 2003 "Review of Ezra Chitando, *Singing Culture: A Study of Gospel Music in Zimbabwe*." H-Safrica, H-Net Reviews, July, 2003 URL:

<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=157081062533497>.

Encyclopedia Entries

- Forthcoming "Chimurenga." *The Continuum Encyclopedia of Popular Music of The World, Part 3: Genres*. John Shepherd and David Horn, eds. London: Continuum. (Currently in Press). Anticipated 2018 Publication.
- Forthcoming "Sungura." *The Continuum Encyclopedia of Popular Music of The World, Part 3: Genres*. John Shepherd and David Horn, eds. London: Continuum. (Currently in Press). Anticipated 2018 Publication.

Other Publications

- 2009 "Teaching African Music." *Illinois International Review* 9, 2009.
- 2007 "Africa and Transnational Culture Industries." *Illinois International Review* 5, 2007.

Workshops Organized

- May 2016 "The Future of the Liberal Arts Music Curriculum" AALAC Faculty Workshop, Grinnell College. Co-Organizer and Workshop Liaison

Conference Presentations

- Forthcoming "Provincializing Symbols: Music, Indexicality, and Meaning During the Mbira Piece Shumba." Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Denver, CO. October 27, 2017.
- 2015 "Zvaayungu Spirits and the Embodiment of Ndaou Modernity." Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, San Diego, CA. November 19, 2015.
- 2015 Roundtable Organizer and Participant "Synthesizing Theoretical and Methodological Perspectives of Musical Experience and Affect/Emotion/Sentiment/Feeling." Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Austin, TX. December 5, 2015.
https://iu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/SEM+2015-+Sessions+9A+%2526+10A/1_amm9ekny (begin at 2:00 mark).
- 2014 "Hearing the Mbira dzaVaNdau." Annual Conference of the British Forum for Ethnomusicology, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, England. July 1-4, 2014.
- 2014 "Semiotic Expectations and the Transformation of Emotional Experience in Mhongo Drumming in Zimbabwe." Sound and Affect: Voice, Music, World: International Conference. Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, April 18-19, 2014.
- 2013 "Mhongo's Moving Meanings: Semiotics, Spirituality, and Emotional Possibilities in the Ndaou Drumming of Zimbabwe." Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Indianapolis, IN. November 15, 2013.
- 2013 "'Don't Cry For Me When I'm Dead,' or, The Mbira dzaVaNdau is Disappearing, Should We Care?" Midwest Chapter Meeting for the Society for Ethnomusicology, Cincinnati,

OH, April 13, 2013.

- 2012 “Brevity, Ambiguity, and Expressivity in *Mbira dzaVaNdau* Performance.” Symposium: Mbira Music | Musics. Structures and Processes. 15 Internationaler Kongress der Gesellschaft für Musikforschung. September 6, 2012.
- 2011 “A Tale of Two Mbiras.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Philadelphia, PA. November 18, 2011.
- 2009 “Sungura Stories: Zimbabwean Popular Music at the Margins.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Mexico City. November 22, 2009.
- 2009 “Awakening Spirits: The Ontology of Spirit, Self, and Society in Nda Spirit Possession Practices in Zimbabwe.” Across the Threshold Conference, Duke University, Durham, NC, March 20, 2009.
- 2008 “Dancing in Opposition: Muchongoyo, Emotion, and the Politics of Performance in Southeastern Zimbabwe.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Middletown, CT. October 25, 2008.
- 2008 Panel Discussion Participant, “The Interdisciplinary Humanities Center and the University.” Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities 10th Annual Conference, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, March 27, 2008.
- 2007 “‘Things Aren’t Good!’: The Ethics of Nda Performance and a Critique of Aesthetics.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Columbus, Ohio. October 25, 2007.
- 2007 “Possessing History, Possessed by History: Spirit Possession and Historical Consciousness Among the Nda in Zimbabwe.” Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, New York, New York. October 21, 2007.
- 2007 Panel Discussion Participation, “Beauty, Ancient and Modern.” Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities 9th Annual Conference, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, March 30, 2007.
- 2002 “The Contradictory Aesthetics and Ethics of Zimbabwean Popular Music.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Estes Park, Colorado. November 18, 2002.

Invited Lectures and Colloquia

- Forthcoming “What Might Musical Meaning Mean?” The Musicology, Music Theory, & Ethnomusicology Colloquium, University of Iowa, Spring 2017.
- 2015 “Hearing the Mbira in Postcolonial Zimbabwe.” Grinnell Faculty Colloquium, Grinnell College, May 1, 2015
- 2014 “Spirituality and the Embodiment of Memory in Chipinge, Zimbabwe.” Music, Memory, and History on the Frontlines of Apartheid: Looking at Zimbabwe, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, March 26, 2014.

- 2013 “Muchongoyo and the Legacy of Tyranny in Mugabe’s Zimbabwe.” Musicology Colloquium, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, September 27 2013.
- 2013 “‘When Two Elephants Fight, it is the Grass That Suffers’: Muchongoyo in Zimbabwe and the Legacy of Tyranny in Mugabe’s Zimbabwe.” Dictatorial Aesthetics, Duke University, Durham, NC, April 5, 2013.
- 2012 “Musical Beauty, Performance, and the Liberal Arts.” Department of Music, Grinnell College, November 30, 2012.
- 2011 “Role of the Mbira in Zimbabwean Culture.” Food For Thought, U.S. Embassy, Public Affairs Section, Harare, Zimbabwe, July 12, 2011.
- 2011 “Sungura Societies: Popular Music, Postcolonial Community, and Ethnomusicological Discourse in Zimbabwe.” Musicology Lecture, University of Pittsburgh, February 28, 2011
- 2010 “Popular Music in Zimbabwe, African Social Formations, and a Critique of Cosmopolitanism.” Musicology Colloquium, The Ohio State University, February 25, 2010.
- 2010 “Popular Music in Zimbabwe, African Social Formations, and a Critique of Cosmopolitanism.” Music Colloquium, Reed College, February 18, 2010.
- 2010 “Playing for Spirits: Music and Spiritual Emergence in Ndaou Religious Ceremonies.” Musicology Colloquium, College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, January 20, 2010.
- 2009 “The Emergence of Sungura: Independence, Identity and Contrasting Cosmopolitans in Zimbabwe.” Faculty Seminar Series, Bowdoin College. November 3, 2009.
- 2008 “African Music and Culture.” Africa Institute for Educators, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. July 2, 2008
- 2007 “The Ethics of Ndaou Performance: A Question of Aesthetics.” Musicology Colloquium, School of Music, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. March 14, 2007.
- 2006 “The Possession of History: Spirit Possession, Performance Practice, and Historical Consciousness Among the Ndaou in Zimbabwe.” African Studies Lecture Series, Center for African Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, September 13, 2006.

Courses Taught and Designed

Grinnell College

- Race and Musical Taste (Forthcoming Advanced Music seminar)
- Tutorial: The Truth (First-year writing tutorial)
- Tutorial: Sound and Emotional Experience (First-year writing tutorial)
- Zimbabwe: Music, Culture, and Colonialism (co-taught with Tute Chigamba)
- Theory and Method in Ethnomusicology (Intermediate Music seminar)

Tutorial: Music and Beauty (First-year writing tutorial)
Music and Religious Experience (Intermediate music seminar)
Music, Culture, and Context (Introduction to ethnomusicology and “world music”)
African Music (Introductory survey course)
Popular Music and the Black Atlantic (Intermediate music seminar)
Zimbabwean Mbira Ensemble (Music performance course)

Pomona College

Performing the Sacred (Intermediate music seminar)
Music and Beauty (First-year writing seminar)
Introduction to World Music (Introductory survey course)
Music in Africa (Introductory survey course)
Introduction to Ethnomusicology (Introductory theory and methods course)
Semiotics, Music, and Meaning (Senior seminar)
Zimbabwean Mbira Ensemble (Music performance course)

Bowdoin College

World Music, Globalization, and Transnational Culture Industries (Advanced seminar)
Music in Africa (Introductory survey course)
Theory and Method in Ethnomusicology (Intermediate music seminar)
Music, Religion, and Spirituality (Intermediate music seminar)
Music in the Caribbean (Introductory survey course)
Music, Emotion, and Experience (Advanced music seminar)
Mbira Ensemble (Music performance course)

University of Illinois

Introduction to World Music (Introductory survey course)
Mbira Ensemble (Music performance course)
Karimba Ensemble (music performance course)

Performance Experience

- 2016 Mbira Performance at “Bursting the Bubble,” TEDx, Grinnell College. November 5, 2016.
- I performed mbira music with Roger Vetter and Briannah Wilson and talked about the reality of our performance confronting audience expectations.
- 2016 Guest Performer for “Three Black Kings” with the Central Iowa Symphony, Des Moines, IA. May 1, 2016.
- I played the kalimba as a guest artist for the “Reflections of Beauty” program.
- 2016 “The Art of the Mbira” with Chartwell Dutiro and Jennifer Kyker at the Fifth International Symposium of the Music of Africa, Princeton University. April 8-9, 2016.
- Performed, sang, and presented the art of mbira music from Zimbabwe.
- 2011-2014 TransAtlantic Steel: Appalachian Strings and Zimbabwean Keys
- A duo with Joti Rockwell synthesizing the mbira music of Zimbabwe, Appalachian music, Bluegrass, and their occasional interface in the development of Zimbabwean popular music. Performances at Pomona College, The Folk Music Center in Claremont, CA, and Grinnell College.

- 2013 Mbira Performance with Patience Chaitezvi Munjeri and Jennifer Kyker, Ohio University. October 30, 2013
- Performed mbira, hosho, and sang during a concert and lecture-demonstration.
- 2006-2013 Mhondoro Rhythm Success
- Co-director of band performing Zimbabwean popular music. Responsibilities included arranging the songs, teaching the parts, playing the mbira and lead vocals, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- 2006-2007 University of Illinois Andean Ensemble
- Play and sing music of the Peruvian Andes on Kena and percussion, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- 2003-2005 Mhembero
- Played mbira and sang in performances for political and communal functions as well as for spirit possession ceremonies, Harare, Zimbabwe.
- 2000-2001 Brazilian Percussion Group
- Played Surdo, repique, and other percussion in Samba group, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- 1999-2001 Graduate Chorale
- Sang bass in an elite graduate student choral ensemble at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
- 1997-1998 Spirit Talk Mbira
- Played mbira and sang in a Zimbabwean music ensemble led by Chartwell Dutiro at performances and festivals throughout the United Kingdom and North America.
- 1996-1997 Thai Music Ensemble
- Played ranad thum and various percussion instruments at SOAS, University of London.

Institutional Service

- 2017- Center for the Humanities Advisory Board, Grinnell College.
- 2017 Public Events Committee, Grinnell College.
- 2013-2016 Center for International Studies Advisory Board, Grinnell College.
- 2013-2016 Ombudsperson Advisory Council, Grinnell College.
- 2013-2014 Mellon Mays Fellowship Mentor
- 2013-2014 Early Career Faculty Co-Coordinator, Grinnell College.

Awards and Fellowships

- 2007-2008 *Dissertation Completion Fellowship*, University of Illinois, Graduate College.
- Funded twelve months to complete my doctoral dissertation.

- 2006-2007 *IPRH (Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities) Graduate Student Fellowship*, University of Illinois, IPRH.
- Funded a year of dissertation work at IPRH.
- 2003-2004 *Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (DDRA)*
- Funded one year of dissertation research in the Chipinge District of Zimbabwe.
- 2002 *FLAS Fellowship (Summer)*, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Center for African Studies.
- Funded Intensive Shona language training at SCALI, Michigan State University.
- 2001-2002 *FLAS Fellowship*, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Center for African Studies.
- Funded a language tutorial in Shona
- 2000-2001 *FLAS Fellowship*, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Center for African Studies
- Funded a language tutorial in Shona. Fall 2000 – Spring 2001.
- 1999-2000 *University of Illinois Graduate Fellowship*
- Funded a year of doctoral coursework in the Department of Musicology in the School of Music, Fall 1999 – Spring 2000.

Fieldwork Experience

- 2011-present Harare, Zimbabwe
- Ethnographic fieldwork with mbira musicians in Harare and continued research on popular music in Zimbabwe, primarily sungura.
- 2003-present Chipinge, Zimbabwe
- Ethnographic field research.
- 2001 Harare, Zimbabwe
- Ford Foundation Summer Research Program. Ethnographic fieldwork with Mbira musicians and preliminary dissertation field research in Chipinge.
- 1997 London, England
- Master's thesis field research with mbira musicians in London. Field research on performance in the Russian Orthodox Church.

Language Proficiency

- Proficiency speaking, writing, and reading in Shona
- Basic proficiency reading and speaking in German

Professional Affiliations

- Society for Ethnomusicology
- British Forum for Ethnomusicology
- African Studies Association